

ARMY AND NAVY CHRONICLE.

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[WHOLE No. 280.]

Foreign Miscellany.

A few weeks since, we published a communication tending to prove the value of horse artillery as a means of coast-defence. Since then, we have met with an article in a late United Service Journal, which corroborates the views taken by our correspondent, and we have accordingly transferred it to our columns.

Correspondence of the United Service Journal.

ON THE COMBINATION OF CAVALRY AND HORSE ARTILLERY IN THE FIELD.

MR. EDITOR: Some of the most brilliant results in war have been achieved by the combined effects of cavalry and horse artillery.

In a country which admits of the employment of both arms at the same time, they should not be considered as only occasional auxiliaries to each other, but ought to be inseparable companions. For want of this constant conjunction, many brilliant opportunities are lost, which vanish altogether, if not instantaneously seized.

When cavalry alone come up to infantry in a plain, if the infantry is good, it will, even under such disadvantageous circumstances, generally baffle all the efforts of cavalry; but the steadiest infantry in such a situation, otherwise invincible to the attacks of cavalry, can hardly withstand the joint efforts of both cavalry and artillery. The very formation it is obliged to assume, in order to resist the former, becomes murderous and untenable under the fire of the latter. Whenever, therefore, infantry have got clear out of such a predicament, it must have been owing to the want of energy or management on the part of the assailants.

Even if infantry, in such a situation, is supported by a portion of cavalry, (supposing it, of course, inferior in number to the attacking corps,) it ought to have but a slender chance of escape. Either the cavalry by which it is supported must keep aloof to admit of the infantry using its fire, and then might be attacked and beaten separately, or if it remain close to its infantry, it masks its fire, and runs the risk of being driven in upon it and breaking it.

This becomes the more evident where the infantry is in retreat by columns convertible into squares, which is the usual formation on such occasions; the cavalry then forming the rear-guard, must necessarily both mask the infantry, and be liable to be driven back upon it.

Under such circumstances, therefore, these double means of attack from infantry and artillery, must, if skilfully managed, prove irresistible. Many opportunities of the sort were lost during the peninsular war, owing to the absence of artillery.

To make the most, however, of this powerful combination of the two arms, a mutual understanding between them is indispensable.

It is not to be expected generally, that the cavalry officer should be thoroughly acquainted with all the details of artillery; or on the other hand, that the horse artillery officer should be conversant in all those of the cavalry, (though the latter would have comparatively but little to learn to render him so,) yet both services should, to a certain extent, understand the nature of each other.

The cavalry officer ought to be able to estimate the capability of artillery in all situations, through a knowledge of the range of the different calibres—the effects of the different projectiles—their proper application, and the nature of the ground best calculated for its movements, manœuvres, and effect.

The artillery officer ought equally to know what can be expected from cavalry in all situations. If both thus understand each other's means, no unreasonable expectations will be entertained on either side as is often the case.

The cavalry officer must always bear in mind that artillery is, comparatively, a passive arm, requiring constant support, or rather protection, without which it cannot act with efficiency.

The usual mode of supporting artillery is not generally very judicious or satisfactory, and consequently it is often more exposed than it ought to be. A squadron which remains inactive and immovable behind a battery, is not affording that sort of support or protection to which artillery is entitled. Parties of the enemy's cavalry commonly hover around, and threaten an attack; clouds of sharpshooters approach and pick off the gunners: all such annoyances and impediments ought, as a matter of course, to be swept away from the front, to enable artillery to act with more security and effect.

All this may appear very obvious to practical soldiers, but yet it has been much overlooked in the field. There cannot be a more appropriate opportunity for coming to a proper understanding on these points than the present, when a most distinguished cavalry officer happens also to be at the head of the artillery.

The proper combination of cavalry and artillery is, however, not so susceptible of ocular demonstration in time of peace as other tactical points. The attacks of cavalry on infantry may be simulated, at reviews, so as to approach the appearance of reality; but the effects of artillery on columns and squares cannot be represented. Such theory, therefore, must remain somewhat imperfect.

Whoever witnessed the brilliant career of the British horse artillery in the field can never forget it. The rapid and intrepid manner in which it rushed into action, hardly waiting for support or protection, but seeming rather to lead the attack than to second it—the quickness and accuracy of its fire, disregarding altogether the fearful odds with which it had to contend in the superior calibre of the enemy's guns opposed to them—in short, their whole bearing rendered them the admiration of the army. I confess myself an enthusiast for this glorious arm, from the recollection I retain of its performances in the field.

Should these few remarks merit your attention, and that of your readers, I would venture, on a future opportunity, to offer a few more on the same subject.

B.

Extract of a Milan letter quoted by the Commerce:—
The principal authorities of Brescia have received notice that large bodies of troops will be assembled in the autumn, on the plain of Montechiari, under command of General Radetzky, who intends to execute manœuvres formed upon the plans of the battles of Napoleon. All the corps will have muskets furnished with the percussion locks invented by M. Consolo of Milan. This lock, compared with all hitherto produced either in England or France, is more simple, less expensive, and more certain in action. It appears to combine every advantage; and the English General, Sir Robert Wilson, having thoroughly studied and proved it, intends to recommend it for adoption to the English Government. It certainly surpasses all others in being applicable to field artillery and ship's guns, and must present advantages of a superior character to have induced the Austrian Government not only to adopt an improvement made by an Italian, but moreover, to decorate him with

the order of the Iron Crown, and grant him a pension of 5,000fr.

The first-rate ship, the *Friedland*, pierced for 140 guns, is to be launched at Cherbourg, on the 4th of next month. She is one of the largest built in France.

FIRE IN THE ARSENAL OF TOULON.—We have seen a letter from Toulon, stating that on Thursday morning the workshop for preparing Congreve rockets, &c., in the arsenal, took fire; the consequence of which was that for several hours the most tremendous explosions and discharges of projectiles took place over the town and roadstead, and into the surrounding country. Several shells fell near the *Belle Poule* frigate. About twelve men, including an officer, are believed to have lost their lives by this accident, and from fifteen to twenty persons have been more or less injured. The cause of the accident is not stated.—*Galvani's Messenger*.

A trait of great courage is mentioned by the *Toulonnais* as having been shown by a woman during the late explosion and conflagration at the rocket manufactory. She knew that her husband was one of the men who was in the room where the first explosion took place, and she determined to go in and look for him. Heedless of the shells which kept exploding every minute, she rushed into the midst of the smoke and flames, where several bodies were lying, and, turning them over, found her husband among them. Hoping that he was not dead, she endeavored to drag him away, but his arm came off in her hands, and she found that he was shattered all to pieces. Leaving his body, she took hold of that one of her neighbors, whom she knew to be the father of a large family, and whom she hoped to rescue, but his clothes fell into shreds, and she found him almost calcined. The courageous woman retired from the spot unhurt.

MILITARY PUNISHMENT.

By a Parliamentary Paper of Session 1834, it appears that in four years the cases of corporal punishment inflicted in the Royal Navy amounted to 7,013—that is upwards of 7,000 seamen were tried by Courts Martial and flogged. By another Parliamentary Paper, it appears that during the five years ending December, 1836, 1,227 soldiers, that is 245 yearly, within the United Kingdom, were subjected to corporal punishment. By the same return, it appears that, during the same period, 332 marines underwent the same punishment, and that of these 1559 persons, 242 were flogged a second time, and 44 a third time. Parliament have lately put an end to the flogging labourers in the West Indies. Is it not high time that our military and naval cruelties were also abolished?—*London Sun*.

The ceremony of degradation of six soldiers, who had been condemned for various offences by Courts Martial, took place yesterday morning in the Place Vendôme. As the details of such an affair are not devoid of interest we subjoin a brief account of them. Detachments from the various regiments of the garrison of Paris, being drawn up in line, a cellular van containing the delinquents arrived towards eleven at the foot of the Column. The business immediately commenced with the reading, by the Commandant Reporter, assisted by his Registrar, of the sentences passed on three privates, who were condemned to the *boulet* for five years as deserters. This done, the three men, with their eyes blindfolded, wearing their gray coats and dragging after them the *boulet*, a heavy cannon-ball attached to their bodies by a chain two yards long, were led along the front of the line, the troops carrying arms, and the bands playing. This exposition terminated, a private of artillery, condemned to five years' close confinement for theft, was brought forth. A non-commissioned officer having made this man carry arms, took his musket from him, and made

him carry arms with the muzzle reversed. This done the musket was grounded and his belts and cartouch box stripped from him downwards, and laid with the gun. His forageing-cap was next taken off, and the number of his regiment cut off. He was then made to turn his back to his comrades, and the non-commissioned officer took up the musket, and made believe to strike the degraded man on the back with the butt-end of it. In former times this blow was serious, and frequently left a lasting mark. At last came two privates of cavalry who were sentenced for hard labour on public works for three years, having deserted but not quitted France, and they underwent the same degrading ceremonies as the artilleryman. The whole proceedings being finished, the six men were ranged at the foot of the column, and remained while the troops marched by them, with their bands playing, on their way to their respective quarters. The condemned men were then given over to the custody of gendarmerie.—*Galvani's Paris Messenger*, March 14.

Antoine Delpuech, the oldest soldier in the French army, died recently at Saint Cernin in the Cantal, in his 120th year. He served in the war of the succession in Austria under Marshal Saxe. On the 11th of May, 1745, he fought in the battle of Fontenoi, and was one of the only five men of his company, commanded by M. de Calonne, who survived that day. The recollection of this memorable action was present to his memory to the last, and he continued to relate all its details with perfect precision. He worked as a laborer till within the last three years, and went every Sunday on foot to church upwards of a league from his village. He retained his intellectual faculties till his death. Latterly he enjoyed a pension from the King.

M. Jozin a veteran officer who has already obtained patents for several valuable inventions, is said to have recently presented to the Minister of War two of a new kind; one is a species of moveable block-house, ball proof, with loop holes for firing, capable of affording shelter to a great number of men. It may be made effectual in retreats and other cases, where a small body may have to contend with a superior force. The second invention is a train of musketry capable of discharging 1,500 balls in an hour. One man can load the barrels, which are of large bore, all at once, and can at will give each barrel separately any direction required.

The following note on the winds as connected with the navigation of the Atlantic in the vicinity of our coast, has been printed for circulation at Bermuda, and will be recognized as emanating from a distinguished source.—*N. Y. Journal of Commerce*.

NOTE ON THE WINDS.

AS INFLUENCING THE COURSES SAILED BY BERMUDA VESSELS.

In high latitudes the atmospheric currents, when undisturbed, are westerly, particularly in the winter season. If storms and gales revolve by a fixed law, and we are able by studying these disturbing causes of the usual atmospheric currents, to distinguish revolving gales, it is likely that voyages may be shortened.

The indications of a revolving gale are, a descending barometer with a regularly veering wind.

In a voyage from Bermuda to New York in the winter, strong westerly winds, together with the gulf stream, would carry vessels attempting to sail direct to New York, to the eastward of their course. No doubt all seamen are aware of this, and do in consequence make some allowance by keeping to the westward. But according to usual practice, on an east wind overtaking them, they would steer in a direct course for their destined port, making allowance only for the current, as the wind would be considered a fair one. If however the gale were a revolving one,

the wind at first easterly, would veer until it became westerly: and would probably blow from the westward with increased force; when the vessel would be carried off her course. It is therefore a subject deserving consideration whether advantage should not be taken of the temporary east wind in order to run to the westward nearly as far as the meridian of Cape Hatteras; so that in the rest of the voyage to New York, the chance of reaching that port would be the same as that of coasting vessels in their voyage from the Carolinas.

But should a dry easterly wind set in, and the barometer maintain its mean height, or rise above it, the case would be altogether different; for these would be indications of a steady wind, and not of a revolving gale. The ship may then be steered direct for the intended port; and this shows that the hygrometer might prove a useful instrument at sea, though not hitherto used, that I am aware of, in aid of navigation.

Since vessels sailing from Bermuda and bound to New York or the Chesapeake, must necessarily cross the gulf stream, they will have an advantage in doing so before that stream begins to set strongly to the eastward. For this reason, as well as to have a better chance of getting to the westward, it would seem advisable on leaving Bermuda to make no *Nothing*, but if the wind should at the time blow, for example, from the northwest, to sail free upon the starboard tack, and to keep on this tack until the vessel be so far advanced as to fall into the northerly current of the gulf stream; and this might prove to be the best course to pursue, even should the ship for a time make *South- ing*. The more southerly the port to be gained, as for example Baltimore, the more does it appear advisable that this should be persevered in. The same principle of sailing for Boston and even for Halifax, (though in a much less degree) might be found to be that by which the most certain course would be secured. It may appear unreasonable to propose that a ship bound to a port to the northward, should on leaving Bermuda steer southerly—yet when we shall be better acquainted with the causes of the variable winds and their changes, this may really not appear to be so unreasonable.

For example, towards the end of a revolving gale passing over Bermuda, the wind may still be west, and blowing hard. Since the courses of such gales are northerly, a ship by steering north would only continue the longer in the same westerly gale, whereas by steering southerly, the ship and the storm would be moving in opposite directions, and the vessel would the sooner have the chance of falling into a new variation of the wind. Sailing southerly, on the starboard tack, the latter end of such revolving gales as the one supposed above, might, as frequently happens, veer to W. N. W., and even to N. W., which would enable a ship to come up and make a better course towards the west.

These suggestions are offered to practical seamen, in the hope that some persons will be induced to consider this subject; and if gales really revolve, that advantage may be taken of their mode of action.

In sailing from the West Indies to Bermuda in the winter season, the trade wind will generally enable vessels to gain a meridian sufficiently to the westward before they leave the latitudes where it usually blows: and in winter, it would seem desirable to make the 68th or 70th degrees of west longitude, before leaving the 25th of latitude.

In voyages between Bermuda and Halifax, in the winter season, the same reasons hold good for keeping to the westward, as have been recommended for the passage from the West Indies to Bermuda, but in a much greater degree; for in this latter case there is not the easterly trade wind to carry ships to the westward. On the contrary, the west wind may blow throughout, whilst the gulf stream also would tend to set vessels to the eastward. The degree of Westing

to be made in this passage in the different seasons, does not seem to be agreed upon.

The chief object, however, of this Note, is to point out the benefit which may be derived from profiting by the east winds which blow on the north side of a revolving gale in north latitude, before the gale shall veer to the westward.

W. R.

BERMUDA, 13th February, 1840.

NEWLY INVENTED HOWITZER.—The National de l'Ouest gives the following account of a trial of a new light howitzer for field service. "The piece is 12 lb. calibre, weighing 100 killogrammes (200 lbs.) so that it may be carried over mountains on the back of a mule. It throws a shell, which bursts on reaching the enemy, and contains seventy-five balls, scattering its splinters into an extent of six hundred yards, and the balls are directed with great precision, penetrating boards of considerable thickness. It may be used with the greatest effect in the most mountainous parts of Algiers."

MOVEMENT OF THE BRITISH TROOPS.—The Quebec Gazette of 29th April, has these paragraphs:

Halifax papers of the 18th and St John, N. B., of the 20th, were received this morning. In addition to the 56th Regiment, the *Apollo* brought small detachments of the 64th, 68th, and 82d regiments.

St. JOHN, April 16th.—We learn that two companies of the 69th regiment, now in this garrison, are to proceed to Frederickton, and that more troops are expected here from Halifax.

The average number of men and boys employed in the British navy during the year 1839, was—seamen, 20,970; marines, 9,015; boys, 4,152; total, 34,137.

Domestic Miscellany.

TESTIMONY TO THE ARMY.—Soldiers in garrisons do not often leave behind them so good a reputation as the annexed correspondence indicates to be the case of the 8th regiment United States infantry, now on its march to the Winnebago country. We always look upon such testimonies as these with pleasure and pride.—N. Y. American.

From the *Sacket's Harbor Journal*.

In publishing the following correspondence, between a committee of our citizens and Col. WORTH, we trust there can be no impropriety in adding our own to the universal regret that is felt upon the occasion of the removal of the 8th regt. from this post. The social and friendly intercourse which has subsisted between our citizens and the officers of the regiment, will be severed, but they bear with them the warmest wishes of warm hearts for their future health, prosperity, and happiness. When the call of the country requires their active services, they will prove as valiant in the field, as they have been generous and confiding in social life; and let the occasion present, and the 8th shall win for itself the proud appellation of the *Republic's Own*.

We understand that the regiment will move as soon as it is ascertained that Buffalo harbor is clear of ice, leaving this post in charge of two companies.

SACKET'S HARBOR, April 22, 1840.

SIR: The citizens of this village, learning that the 8th regiment of infantry is on the eve of departure from this place, have appointed the undersigned a committee in their behalf, to express their unaffected regret that the exigency of the public service requires its removal; and to invite you, and through you, the officers of your command, to partake of a public dinner, at such time, before your departure, as may suit your convenience.

The committee, for themselves individually, and in behalf of their fellow-citizens, cannot but avail them-

selves of this occasion, to express to you their high and proper estimation of your public services upon this frontier, and of the manner in which they have been performed, during a period of the time rendered difficult and delicate, in consequence of an extraordinary state of the public mind; and of the high sense we entertain of the kind and gentlemanly deportment which has always characterised the intercourse of yourself and the officers of your command, with this community.

We are respectfully, your obedient servants,

ELISHA CAMP,	WM. BUCKLEY,
AUGUSTUS FORD,	L. DENISON,
J. O. DICKEY,	GEO. REDFIELD,
JASON PHELPS,	D. HARLOW,
S. P. NEWELL, jr.	EDW. SACKET,
C. C. SYMONDS,	D. N. BURNHAM,
WM. VAUGHAN,	HORACE HOWE.
ZENO ALLEN,	

To Col. WILLIAM J. WORTH,

Com'g Madison Bar. Sacket's Harbor, N. Y.

HEAD QUARTERS 8th Regiment,
Madison Barracks, April 22, 1840.

GENTLEMEN: In common with my brother officers, I have received, with deep sensibility, your kind and obliging note in behalf of the citizens of Sacket's Harbor.

Under "the circumstances of the times" since we came among you in the performance—occasionally of invidious duties—so to have conducted ourselves as to win the kindness, respect, and confidence of a generous and patriotic community which has invariably yielded generous confidence and hospitality in social—prompt and firm support in public relations—will ever be to us a source of the purest gratification.

The brief space intervening demands the time of all in preparation for a distant movement, and compels us reluctantly, but most respectfully, to decline your tender of a parting hospitality, which we do in the hope that the chequered incidents of our profession may again bring us among you.

Believe us, gentlemen, your obliged and grateful friends,

(In behalf of the reg.)

W. J. WORTH,

Col. Commanding.

To E. CAMP, AUGUSTUS FORD, Esqrs.
and others, a committee.

From the Harrisburgh, Pa. Keystone.

MILITARY.—The following circular has been sent to all the brigadier inspectors in the Commonwealth by the Adjutant General, whom we are happy to say, is doing more to reform the militia system of our State, and curtail its expenses, than has been done for many years. We hope the Legislature may reform the system, if capable of reformation—and this will aid the Adjutant General in bringing something like order out of the present confusion.

ADJUTANT'S GENERAL'S OFFICE, }
Lancaster, March 30, 1840. }

To Brigadier General ———,

SIR: The time is at hand, when you are by law required to advertise the regimental and company parades. I am sorry to say, that the supplement to the militia law, which is now before the Legislature, has not yet become a law, which, if passed, will be a great assistance in the collection of fines, &c. You will immediately take such steps as will be most proper, to secure a great enrolment of the militia, and that a suitable court of appeal be appointed. In your advertisements, and at the parades, give the militia to understand that the fines must be collected, and that the proper steps will be taken to bring about a reformation in the militia system, by enforcing obedience to the laws, and curtailing its expenses which have been nearly \$40,000 yearly. As we may in all pro-

bability, soon have a war with England, (judging from all appearances,) we should be ready, at least so far as regards having the men well-enrolled, and the companies and regiments well organized under capable officers. This may at first seem a great difficulty, when we take into consideration the totally unorganized condition of some portions of the militia of this State. But, notwithstanding the gloomy prospect, I do not hesitate one moment in saying that if you continue to persevere as you have done, that there are no difficulties which cannot be surmounted.

To avoid the inconvenience and expense attending frequent elections of company officers, you will direct them to be appointed, whenever a vacancy occurs, under the first sections of the act of 1824, which gives full power to appoint—(see form of Return of Appointments in the Militia Law.)

I receive communications daily from company officers respecting requisitions for arms, and certificates of camp duty, which will in future not be attended to, unless they come through the proper channel (brigadier inspectors,) and when the orders and regulations have been strictly complied with. The bond must be given previous to the requisition being sent to me for arms. I wish you to take some measures which will make officers better acquainted with these regulations.

When in future you receive information that a new company of volunteers is being formed, either of riflemen or cavalry, you will make known to them, that they cannot be furnished with arms, as they are not in the possession of the State; this will avoid expense which they would otherwise be at in uniforming, &c. The reason of the State not having a larger supply of rifle and cavalry arms, is, that there are already too many in use in comparison to muskets, upon which the chief reliance is to be placed in time of war, and should form the bulk of the army.

The Legislature passed a law requiring the Adjutant General, under certain restrictions to furnish additional companies of riflemen with arms. But as it did not make an appropriation for the purchase, I am unable to comply with the law. Muskets can be furnished as usual. You will therefore encourage the formation of volunteer infantry companies.

Volunteers will in future be held responsible for the full value of any guns or accoutrements, which they alter; this habit has caused a deficiency in accoutrements, an inconvenience which we now labor under, and will render it necessary that you have the old accoutrements collected and repaired for the use of any new volunteers wanting arms, until we receive a supply from the General Government.

I would again urge you to send the arms, not in use, to the nearest arsenal.

Very respectfully,

ADAM DILLER, *Adj't Gen'l, P. M.*

MILITARY DECISION.—The Adjutant General of the Commonwealth, stating that doubts were entertained by several of the officers of the militia of this Commonwealth, whether the offices of major or brigadier general become vacant, and a new election could be ordered to fill such vacancy, where any such officer removed from or did not reside within the bounds of his command; and in pursuance of the 60th section of the act of the 2d of April, 1822—"An act for the regulation of the militia of this Commonwealth"—took to his assistance the subscribers for their decision.

By a reference to the 21st section of said act, there is no room for any doubt on this subject; it makes the commission of every such officer null and void, unless he is actually a resident within the bounds of his proper command; and whenever it happens from any cause whatever, that he is not a resident, his office by this section is declared vacant. And wherever a vacancy has occurred, or shall occur from this or any other cause, it is made the duty of the proper officer,

on receiving due notice thereof, to order a new election to fill such vacancy.

A. J. WILSON, *Brig. Gen.*

1st Brig., 10th Div. P. M.

BENJAMIN FOGEL, *Brig. Gen.*

2d Brig., 7th Div. P. M.

ADAM DILLER, *Adj. Gen., P. M.*

April 15th, 1840.

From the Thomaston, Me. Recorder.

U. S. FRIGATE BRANDYWINE.—Extract of a letter dated on board the Brandywine, at Port Mahon, Feb. 15:

You may have noticed that this splendid ship, under the command of Capt. Bolton, sailed from Hampton Roads on the 22d of October last, for this station. We had a tolerable passage across the Atlantic, but were much disappointed that the wind did not allow us to run into the island of Madeira. November 20th, made the Cape St. Vincent at daylight—ship going ten miles per hour. At daylight next morning, discovered Cape Trafalgar on the larboard bow, and stood close under it—then crowded all sail and ran through the Straits of Gibraltar, with a fine breeze from the westward; had a full view of both the European and African coasts. On the starboard hand we saw Tangier, the seat of the Emperor of Morocco, and on the larboard a distant view of Cadiz was presented. At 1, P. M. this day, within gun shot of the rock and tower of Gibraltar—saw all the shipping in port—had a view also of Ceuta in Africa, St. Roque and Algeiras in Europe,—then cracked on the old frigate for this island, hugging the coast of Spain for two days, when a gale of wind drove us over to the coast of Algiers. Plenty of sail in sight, but we spoke nothing for fear of quarantine on our arrival at Mahon. On the 23th November, after a rascally sample of Mediterranean winter weather, we made the Balearic islands, and very soon the one to which we were bound. At 11, A. M. of the same day, having passed the islands Ivica and Majorca, we found ourselves off this port, and the usual signals failing to bring out a pilot, one of our lieutenants, who had sailed on the station, volunteered his services to take the ship into the anchorage, when we immediately ran in and rounded to on the starboard quarter of the U. S. ship of the line Ohio, bearing the broad pennant of Com. Hull, and commanded by Capt. Smith, in a most beautiful and warlike style. Her band was on the taffrail as we passed, and saluted us with 'Hail Columbia,' which our band returned with 'Home, sweet home,' as much as to say, *come and get your letters*, of which we had a boat load.

This is a strange old town; its origin is very ancient, and the inhabitants are so prejudiced, and so much opposed to every thing like innovation upon the manners and customs of their ancestors, that it is far behind the age in knowledge. It is the safest and most secure harbor in the Mediterranean, which is one of the reasons why it has been chosen by the Americans for winter quarters. The town stands on a hill of soft porous stone, elevated about 200 feet above the harbor, and is accessible by winding roads cut out of the rock. The houses are all of stone of the island, about like chalk but exceedingly durable, and will stand fire like the soap stone. The country is poorly wooded, their only fuel being the root of the olive tree and coal brought from the neighboring island of Ivica, which is very dear. The Island is 30 miles long, and this town is on the S. E. end. Cittadella, a pretty little city, is on the North end. There are some interior towns very neat and beautiful, every one being painted tastefully. I have not seen a single exception in the whole island and have repeatedly been all over it—one of my principal amusements being jackass rides into the country. Well, supposing you to be tired of Minorca, I will stop for the present. After being here about ten days we sailed for France, and in two days arrived at Toulon, the great naval depot of this kingdom on

the Mediterranean. We remained at this place three weeks, which afforded us all a fine opportunity of not only seeing every thing worthy of note at this immense arsenal, both naval and military, but much of the country, and also the city of Marseilles, distant about thirty miles. Diligences constantly ply between the two cities, which carry passengers at the moderate price of five francs. They are different from our stage coaches, being divided into three apartments for the accommodation of the different sized purses.

After seeing all that we could here, and showing the French that the American Navy was not yet extinct, we returned to our winter quarters at Mahon, where we anchored on the first of January, and found the Cyane and Ohio. Ever since our arrival various kinds of amusements have been going on. There is for instance a masquerade ball once a week at the theatre, during the carnival, which this year commenced the first of December and ends the third of March. Last week the midshipmen of the Ohio hired the theatre, dressed it most beautifully with flags, evergreens, fruit, &c. in full bearing, and gave a most splendid ball to the Mahonese and officers of the squadron. There were present about 200 ladies of the island in full costume, and all daughters of the most aristocratic Hidalgos. Then came the officers in full dress, the old Commodore among them, looking young for 70. Mrs. Hull acted as lady patroness and looked beautifully. She was seated in an arbor so contrived as to represent a forest of orange trees in full bearing. Miss Hart, her sister, was also there, and Mrs. Cooper the wife of our purser, who is a very beautiful woman.

Last night, 13th February, the officers of the Cyane sloop of war came out at the same place and tried to eclipse the Ohio's. I was not present, being on duty on board, but it was a splendid affair. On these occasions the bands of the Ohio and our ship play alternately. I omitted to mention that at precisely one o'clock, A. M. a curtain of the stage rose and presented to the delighted assembly (on the floored pit) a splendid supper for four or five hundred. Ample justice being done to this feast, the dancing recommenced and continued until half past four. For each of these, next week the citizens come out and give us a ball, upon which occasion they will endeavor to surpass us. This night we have a theatre on board our ship for the amusement of the officers and crew and some invited citizens. The performers are some of our men, and it is to wind up with a dance. The dances in vogue here are the waltz, Spanish and contra dance, the rigadon or cotillion, and fandango. Our officers having much "dead horse" to work out, will probably not give a ball at present, the outfits having been very heavy.

We shall soon be off for France and Italy, say in ten days—probably first to Marseilles, then to Genoa, Spezzia and Naples. I shall improve the first opportunity of visiting Rome, and hope to do so before returning to this place. The Brandywine is decidedly the crack ship of the squadron. We have just given her an entire overhaul at this navy yard, and she looks as fine as a fiddle. She mounts 60 guns and has a crew of 500 as fine boys as ever sailed, and will never disgrace her flag, come what may.

AMERICAN ADMIRALS.—A proposition is now before Congress to create the office of Admiral in our navy. The measure, we are glad to perceive, originates with the Senator from Louisiana, Mr. Nicholas. The want of this rank has long been a subject of complaint. It has prevented our officers from *ranking* with those of the same grade in the British and French marine, and been to them a source of no small mortification. Why the distinction is withheld we have never been able to conjecture, unless the reason be, that Congress is always so busy in electioneering and political matters, as to have very little time to

devote to the interests or the accomplishment of the wishes of the people. The navy is now, and ever has been, since the day of Paul Jones, popular with the nation at large. Every thing that could be done the people were willing to do, in order to confer honor on an arm that had achieved so many victories and reflected such lustre on American history. To our heroic seamen more than to any other class, is the United States indebted for that high name abroad that our country enjoys; yet, how poorly are these meritorious men repaid. Their salaries are a mere pittance, barely sufficient for a spare maintenance; while they are denied the distinctions usually conferred upon the same class in other nations.

Well may it be said that republics are ungrateful. However, the people in this instance are not so much to blame. They are disposed to do all in their power to gratify their gallant defenders. The fault is in the representatives. These high functionaries have neglected this among other duties, for the purpose of carrying on political intrigues and machinations. The fact reminds us of a remark of Mr. Espy the storm King and the philosopher. He said that he delivered a course of lectures at Washington, which was attended by numbers of the most distinguished men in Congress. They all expressed themselves highly gratified, and so well convinced of the practicability of the theory, as to promise the assistance of the nation to the philosopher in carrying forward his enterprise. These promises were supposed to be sincere, and their fulfilment was awaited with patience. Week after week passed by in suspense, but no movement occurred in Congress. Again the storm king urged the importance and great practicable uses of his discovery. The same promises were reiterated, and a like disappointment followed. At last, concluded Mr. Espy, I gave up all hopes of assistance from Congress; for, says he, Congressmen are not *men*—they are *POLITICIANS*. There is a great deal of point and truth in the remark. In the same way are too many public interests neglected, in the selfishness of a personal and grovelling ambition.—*New Orleans Commercial Bulletin*.

NAVAL GENERAL COURT MARTIAL,

AT PHILADELPHIA.

The General Naval Court Martial ordered by the Navy Department for the trial of Commodore Jesse D. Elliott, and other officers of the navy, convened on Monday May 4, at the navy yard in Philadelphia. All the members of the court were present, to wit: Commodore Jacob Jones, President; Commodores Lewis Warrington, John Downes, and Edmund P. Kennedy; and Captains Charles W. Morgan, Foxhall A. Parker, David Conner, John D. Sloat, and George W. Storer. After the organization, it was determined by the court to proceed to the trial of Lieutenant Charles H. McBlair, of the Baltimore station, on charges preferred against him by Commodore Ballard.

From the Philadelphia Ledger, May 6.

Pursuant to adjournment of Monday, the naval court martial, for the trial of Commodore Elliott and Lieutenant McBlair, met yesterday at 11 o'clock. The proceedings of the previous day were read, by which we learned that the Lieutenant was to be first tried, and had, immediately on being examined, pleaded not guilty to the charges specified against him. The prosecutors not being ready with witnesses, and the accused desiring to be heard by Mr. Hare, his counsel, the trial was adjourned to ten o'clock to-day, at which time it is expected that the case will be opened.

Reported for the Public Ledger, May 7, 1840.

The investigation of the charges against Lieutenant McBlair occupied the attention of the court yesterday, from 10 o'clock until half past 3. The Judge

Advocate read the specifications, three in number, and offered Commodore Ballard, of the naval station, Baltimore, as a witness to sustain them. The accusations against the young officer are made by the Commodore himself, and in substance are as follows: About the 20th of January last, Lieut. McB. called at the Commodore's quarters, Barnum's hotel, Baltimore, and not finding the Commodore in, despatched a servant to the sick room of a brother officer, where he at the moment was, with a message that Lieut. McBlair wished to speak with him. During the absence of the servant, Lieut. McB. stepped to another part of the house, so that when the Commodore returned to his parlor it was empty, and he in turn despatched the same messenger for the Lieutenant. In a few minutes he came to the room door in which the Commodore was sitting, which he entered; and as he entered, Com. B. rose, and with extended hand, greeted him with the customary salutations of the day. Being dull of vision, having lost the sight of one eye, and suffered severely from disease in the other, the Commodore did not, until he approached to within a foot or two of his person, discover that his manner and gesture were offensive. Immediately on discovering it, and that he had shrunk back a half a pace or more from his proffered hand, he said, "Lieut. McBlair, to what am I indebted for this visit?" His answer was, "I have come to report my return to duty, after leave of absence to Philadelphia."

"From whom did you obtain leave, sir?"

"From Lieut. Hollins, my immediate commanding officer."

"Then, sir, your duty was to have reported to him and not to me."

"Sir, I know my duty and have done it,"—saying which he turned upon his heel and left the room. During all the time of this conversation Lieut. McB. stood so entirely enveloped in his cloak that the Commodore could not say whether he was in uniform or not. His left arm was across his breast, his face wearing the most determined expression—that of one firmly resolved. On the following morning Lieut. Hollins was sent for by the Commodore, and was requested to bring with him Lieut. McBlair, whom he wished to see *officially*. They came, the latter in his uniform. The Commodore addressed him by saying—"I have sent for you to know the cause of your disrespectful and insubordinate conduct yesterday?" He at once replied—"I intended no disrespect to Commodore Ballard,"—placing some emphasis on the word Commodore.

"Then you mean to distinguish between Commodore Ballard and Mister Ballard?"

His reply was as before, "I meant no disrespect to Commodore Ballard."

"Then it becomes my duty to suspend you from any further duty until I can lay your conduct before the Secretary of the Navy, and accordingly order you on board of your vessel."

[Lieut. McB. was on duty on board the receiving vessel at the Baltimore station.]

His reply to the order was, "Very well, sir," and turned to leave the room, when the Commodore said, "But, Lieut. McB., if your health or convenience make it desirable that you should be on shore, by requesting it in *writing* it shall be granted." To this the reply was immediate, "I ask no favors or indulgences of Commodore Ballard."

"Lieut. McBlair, it may become necessary for me to report your conduct to Com. Ridgely."

"I ask no favors or indulgences from Commodores Ballard or Ridgely," and he left the room.

During both interviews, his whole demeanor wore a tone of "haughty defiance."

It was attempted to be shown, on the cross-examination, that the reply of Lieut. McBlair was, that he asked no favors or indulgences not granted to all others similarly circumstanced; and that the imputed disrespect was not warranted by any thing said, but

existed alone in the imagination of the Commodore himself. Whether this was successful or not will rest with the court to determine. The court will meet again to-day, at 10 o'clock.

From the Ledger, May 8.

Yesterday, the third day of the trial of Lieutenant McBlair before the court martial sitting at our navy yard, the officers were all in their seats precisely at 10 o'clock. John M. Read, Esq., the Judge Advocate, read the proceedings of the previous day, and stated that if he had no further evidence for the prosecution present he would rest. The defence then called Lieut. Hollins, or Captain Hollins, as titled by some of the witnesses, who was sworn as a witness. In substance his evidence was as follows:

About the 18th of February last, I met Lieutenant McBlair in street of the city of Baltimore; I asked him where he was going; he said to put on his uniform to report himself to Commodore Ballard; I remarked it was unnecessary as he had reported himself to me; he said he thought otherwise, and referred to Lieut. Sterett, in company with him, who agreed with him in opinion; I told him he might do so, that there would be no impropriety in it; he left me, and the next morning I was sent for by Com. Ballard, who informed me that Lieut. McBlair had, the day previously, treated him with great disrespect and despatched me for him; when we arrived in the presence of Com. Ballard, the Commodore charged him with disrespectful conduct, and wished to know the cause of it; Lieut. McBlair denied treating him with disrespect; the Commodore persisted that he had, and described his manner and repeated some of his words, when Lieut. McBlair said, "I here, in the presence of Capt. Hollins, declare I never intended to treat you with disrespect, Com. Ballard;" Com. B., in a quick and hurried reply, said, "I am always *Commodore Ballard*," and that he would not allow any officer to treat him with disrespect in his own apartments; Lieut. McBlair then said, "You quite misunderstand me, Commodore, it was never my intention to treat you with disrespect; I understood you had been inquiring after me was the reason I came to report;" the Commodore replied that "the service was coming to a very pretty pass if a Commodore could not inquire after his Lieutenant without giving offence; you will consider yourself suspended until I report your conduct to the Secretary of the Navy, and you will confine yourself to the receiving vessel unless it be attended with very great inconvenience;" Lieut. McB. made an inclination of his head and replied, "very well, sir," and was about to leave the apartment, when the Commodore added, "strict military discipline requires your living on board, but," repeating his previous remark, "if it is attended with great inconvenience I do not wish you to live on board;" Lieut. McBlair thereupon said, "I ask no indulgences not allowed to other officers in similar situations." Com. Ballard then said, "I will also prefer those charges against you that Com. Ridgely has left with me." Very well, sir, I am ready to receive and confute any charges that can be brought against me," saying which Lieut. McB. left the room. Some fifteen minutes after this I saw Lieut. McB. and asked him if he intended to go on board the brig. He said no. I replied that I thought he was right, and that I did not believe the Commodore intended that he should.

The word *Commodore*, to my view, in the interview between them was not emphasized; nor was the manner and language of the Lieutenant, contemptuous, disrespectful, and insubordinate. To me, it did not appear censurable in any respect. In the course of the interview between Com. Ballard and Lieut. McBlair, the Commodore said, "you had no right to report to me," &c. To which Lieut. McBlair replied, that "as an additional reason why I reported to you, Commodore, was, I had heard that you had been in-

quiring after me." Com. Ballard *had* inquired of me, whether Lieut. McBlair was in town. The Commodore's manner throughout the interview, was irritable—as a man mortified. Lieut. McB.'s manner was courteous, very gentlemanly and correct—exhibiting more than usual caution. It was Com. Ballard, and not Lieut. McBlair, who drew the distinction between *Commodore Ballard* and *Mister Ballard*. When the Commodore said that the distinction was made, Lieut. McB. did not assent to it. I first knew that the conduct of the Lieutenant at the second interview was the subject of complaint by the Commodore, on the 27th of February. It was not my opinion when Lieut. McBlair left the Commodore's quarters, that he had in the interview for one moment forgotten his respect to that officer by look, word, or gesture.

Com. Ballard said nothing about Lieut. McB.'s health, or a written application in his order to go on board the brig; he did make use of the words "other considerations." Lieut. McB. was confined to the brig under my command one month and one day. No Lieutenant had ever lived on board of her, and, except the cabin, which was occupied by the midshipmen, was unfit to live in. These facts I reported to the Commodore. He considered her fit to live in, and said I was doing myself great injustice in supposing that she was otherwise. I asked Com. B. if I had authority to let Lieut. McB. go on shore. He said no. Lieut. McB. had permission of me to leave the station for a week in the early part of February last. I gave the permission both as senior officer of the station and as commandant of the brig. I was superseded by Com. B. before Lieut. McBlair returned, which he said was the reason for his reporting himself directly to the Commodore. The accused here rested in the examination of the witness, when the Judge Advocate asked the following questions, at the instance of Com. Ballard:

"Did Com. Ballard inspect the 'Pioneer' immediately on taking command of the station?"

Ans. He did.

By the Court. What rendered the "Pioneer's" state-rooms (or store rooms) unfit for use?

Ans. They had been used to keep paints and medicines in—two of them—one of them was occupied by a black steward. The "Pioneer" was originally intended for one of the exploring squadron. There was no other place for an officer to live in.

Ans. to question by Judge Advocate. There were six state-rooms, two used for paints, &c., and one by the black. The remainder were unused; had not been cleansed, and smelt so badly that the midshipmen slept in the cabin.

Lieut. Sterett sworn. I heard Lieut. Hollins, about the 18th of February last, say to Lieut. McBlair that Com. Ballard had arrived; Lieut. McBlair then said he would go and report himself; Lieut. Hollins said he considered it unnecessary, inasmuch as he had reported himself to him; my opinion was asked by Lieut. McBlair, and agreeing with his own, he left me, as I supposed, to report himself to the commodore; there appeared to be no purpose of offence on the part of Lieut. McBlair towards Com. Ballard.

Lieut. Nicholson sworn. Lieut. McBlair is a nephew of Com. Ridgely, and always lived on very amicable terms with him; they were in the habit of meeting in warm argument on naval and other subjects, and the latter was never reminded by his superior of a difference in rank. The commodore was rather inclined to argument.

Lieut. Pinkney sworn. I met Lieut. McBlair at Barnum's hotel on the 18th February last; we sent our names to Com. Ballard together; Lieut. McBlair said he came to report his return to duty to the commodore; we neither of us directed the servant to go to any particular place for the commodore; we entered the commodore's parlor together; I observed that he was in his uniform before he entered the room; he had on his cloak, but its position I cannot

exactly define; it was not thrown over his shoulder, however; his back being to me, I cannot say whether his uniform was visible or not when in the room; there was nothing in his dress, language, or manner objectionable; on entering the commodore's room, the commodore rose and addressed him, "Well, McBlair;" the latter replied, "I have come to report my return;" the commodore made reply that he was not aware that he had been absent. "Yes, sir, I was away by leave of Lieut. Hollins." "You were, sir—O very well, very well." The commodore's manner expressed displeasure, which I attributed to Capt. Hollins having given him leave of absence without his authority. I did not perceive that Lieut. McBlair's manner, language, or demeanor was objectionable in any sense whatever; I did not hear the commodore say that his duty required him to report to Capt. Hollins; Lieut. McBlair's manner was not that of haughty menace and defiance; I did not know of any premeditated purpose of offence to Com. Ballard; Com. Ballard, some weeks subsequent to the occurrence, said to me that he labored under the belief that I accompanied Lieut. McBlair with the view of witnessing the scene, but that he was not then under that impression; I was not aware, on leaving Com. Ballard, that any offence had been given, and did not hear any intimation of the kind till next day; I heard no language of the import, "I know my duty, and have done it;" the last words spoken were, "Very well—O very well," by the commodore.

Examination by Judge Advocate. The distance between myself and Lieut. McBlair, at the time of the interview, was between five and six feet. My attention was not very particularly fixed as to what was passing, though sufficiently so to hear every word that passed. I remained after Lieut. McBlair had left the room.

The evidence here closed, and time was allowed the accused until Saturday at ten o'clock, to prepare a written defence, at which time it will be read to the court.

The trial of Lieut. McBlair for refusing the hand of his superior officer, Capt. Ballard, was closed on Saturday morning by the reading of the defence of the accused before the court martial. The opinion is entertained with some that the circumstances of the case were such as hardly to commend it to the consideration of a court martial. It is inferred from a part of the defence that Lieut. McBlair had a private pique against Capt. Ballard, but with its grounds we have nothing to do. It was proved that Lieut. McBlair held his hat in his left hand, wore his cloak, and did not take hold of the extended hand of "his superior and commanding officer, being in the execution of his duty."—*National Gazette*.

THE LARGEST GUN YET.—There was cast, at the works of the West Point Foundry Association, Cold Spring, (N. Y.) on the 30th ult., a cannon of 12 inches bore, for projecting either shells or solid shot, the former weighing 160 and the latter 240 lbs. The gross weight of this, the largest casting ever made in this country, is 13½ tons. The time required in pouring was 12½ minutes, and the operation was witnessed by hundreds of persons. It was cast by order of, and for account of, Captain Robert F. Stockton, U. S. N.

STEAM FRIGATE.—We witnessed with much gratification the other day the casting of part of the machinery of one of the steam frigates now preparing at the extensive iron works of Messrs Merrick & Towne. The weight of iron melted on the occasion was, we learn, between twenty and thirty thousand pounds. The establishment is very active in the production of this machinery, which occupies a vast number of hands, and will require some months for its completion. The machinery of the other frigate is in progress at the West Point Foundry.—*National Gazette*.

WASHINGTON CITY, THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1840.

NAVY PENSION FUND.—At the request of a correspondent, we copied into our paper of the 30th ult., an extract from the New York Herald, in relation to the Navy Pension Fund. Although divested of its most exceptionable expressions, we have reason to believe that, even in its modified form, the article does great injustice to the motives as well as acts of the head of the Navy Department and of the Navy Commissioner who is presumed to be alluded to, neither of whom, it is understood, have recommended or are in favor of the change in the pension system to the extent charged against them.

The article is not such an one as we should have selected or noticed; nor is the source whence it was derived one in which we place implicit confidence; it was inserted without a critical examination of its bearings and the inferences deducible therefrom.

Having been the cause, undesignedly, of doing injustice to the acts and motives of others, we cannot hesitate a moment to offer the only reparation now in our power—that of making this explanation.

Some one has sent us a newspaper, and paid the post age, forgetting or not knowing that editors receive their papers free of postage. On examination, we find nothing marked, indicating the purpose for which it was sent; but the paper contains an original article, which had previously been selected from our file of exchanges. We would suggest to all persons sending papers, to mark with a pen the article to which it is desirable to draw attention; otherwise the object remains concealed, or must be guessed at.

A subscriber requests us to copy from the April number of the Southern Literary Messenger the article on Our Navy, which has been ascribed to the pen of Lieut. MAURY. We know Lieut. M. to be an accomplished and intelligent officer, and do not doubt from the representations made of the article in question as well as from the portion of it which we have seen copied into other papers, that it is well worth transferring to our columns. If any one will favor us with the number of the Messenger, we will insert the article.

MARRIED MEN IN THE ARMY.

We are ever ready and willing to give all men an opportunity of being heard, on any professional question involving a difference of opinion; and as unanimity of sentiment was never yet secured upon any one subject, it follows that none can be offered for discussion which will not find advocates for and against.

A late regulation of the War Department, respecting the appointment of married men into the army, has been made the theme of comment by the New York Star, and an erroneous view, as we think, taken of the subject of appointments generally.

Eligibility to office, and fitness for office, are materially different. In the one case, citizenship and age are the only limits; in the other, different grades of qualification are essential. It has been too much

the practice to consider that offices were created for the benefit of the incumbents, and not for the convenience or accommodation of the public; and in pressing claims for appointment, more stress is apt to be laid upon the adaptation of the office to the wants of the individual, than on the qualifications of the applicant for the proper discharge of the duties of the office. For every vacancy that occurs, be it in the military, naval, or civil service, there are probably on an average between twenty and thirty applicants; for some, there may be 100 or more, and for others only two or three. While candidates are so numerous, there is not only a propriety, but it would seem to be a duty, to select those who, all circumstances considered, are best suited to perform the service required of them. If two candidates apply for the same situation, the duties of which claim his whole attention and separate him from his family, and one of those candidates be married, while the other is unmarried, every prudent man would advise bestowing the appointment upon the one who can devote his whole time to it without having his thoughts distracted about absent family or friends. The question is not, (at least it should not be,) are married men disqualified for appointments in the army—but will not unmarried men be more efficient? A camp or garrison life on the frontiers is not the easy, quiet routine that would be inferred from the fanciful picture given by the Star; it is one of constant privation and suffering, requiring all the philosophy and firmness of men to endure, and to which no one would expose a female friend who had a regard for her feelings and comfort.

The Star broadly asserts that "for this regulation there is not the least warrant or authority, either in the constitution or the laws;" and that "it is made in violation of both." It would have been as well perhaps to have examined the constitution and the laws, before speaking so decidedly.

The President of the United States has full power to make, alter, and amend, rules and regulations for the government of the army and navy, not only in virtue of his office of commander-in-chief, but likewise by special law of Congress. (See act of 5th March, 1813.) These regulations are viewed in the light of general orders, and have all the force of law. The President empowers the Secretaries of War and the Navy to establish such as may be needful for the government of the service under their control respectively.

One of the regulations of the medical department is, that no candidate shall be examined for admission into that branch of the army, if he is over twenty-eight years of age. Does not this, too, "exclude or disfranchise citizens from military appointments?" and is it not likewise in violation of both the constitution and the laws?

A regulation of the military academy prescribes that "no married person shall be admitted as a cadet; and if any cadet shall be married whilst at the acad-

emy, such marriage will be considered as equivalent to a resignation, and he shall leave the institution accordingly."

These regulations have in view the advancement of the public interest, and not the pleasure or convenience of the individual.

There is nothing in this regulation, or in any other, which prohibits or discourages officers already in the army from being married; it only limits the selection of those who are to be appointed from civil life to such as are unmarried. We insert the regulation in full, for the information of applicants as to the several points upon which they will be examined. We still think the regulation a good one, and calculated to promote the efficiency of the army, for it is based upon that best of all teachers—experience.

REGULATIONS

RESPECTING THE APPOINTMENT IN THE ARMY OF PERSONS FROM CIVIL LIFE.

The Board for the examination of applicants for appointment in the Army, will commence its sessions, annually, on the first Monday of September, when such candidates will be examined as shall have letters from the War Department authorizing the same.

No candidate will be examined who is married; who is under twenty or over twenty-five years of age; who, in the judgment of the Board, has not the physical ability to endure the exposures of service; who has any deformity of body, or whose moral habits are bad.

The Board being satisfied of these preliminary points, will proceed to examine each candidate separately—

- 1st. In his knowledge of Arithmetic, and his ability in the application of its rules to all practical questions; in his knowledge of the use of Logarithms, and ability to apply them in questions of practice; in his knowledge of Algebra to the solution of simple equations; and in his knowledge of Geometry, as far as to include the geometry of planes, ratios, and proportions.
- 2d. In his knowledge of Geography, particularly in reference to the northern continent of America, and in his ability to solve the usual problems on the terrestrial globe. Also in his knowledge of what is usually denominated popular Astronomy.
- 3d. In his knowledge of History, particularly in reference to his own country.
- 4th. In his knowledge of the political organization of the Government of the United States, as developed in the Constitution.

After having completed the examination of all candidates who have presented themselves, the Board will then submit their names to the War Department in order of relative merit. In determining this order the Board will consider ten as the maximum of the first; ten as the maximum of the second; eight as the maximum of the third; and six as the maximum of the fourth head; and no candidate will be passed by the Board who shall not have received, in the judgment of the Board, at least half of the number of maximum marks, on each head or subject of examination. And any candidate having passed, who is also a graduate from any college, shall be allowed five additional marks in his favor, which shall be taken into the account of his general merit.

J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT, 1839.

We would ask the Star to examine and weigh the opinions of experienced men in other services, upon the subject of matrimony. (*Vide, passim*, A. & N. C. of March 26 and April 2, 1840, for the testimony of Major Patterson, of the British army, respecting married ladies in barracks.)

The publication of the extract from the report in our columns, and the comments of the Star, have

drawn forth a married officer, who differs from the Board of Examiners, and has addressed the editors of the National Intelligencer; the editors, not deeming it a subject suited to discussion in their columns, have forwarded the communication to us, and we subjoin it. The writer need not have hesitated to address his remarks to us direct, unless he wished them to have a wider range of perusal than our columns promised to afford. The evidence of the writer, founded on his own experience and observation, only serves to prove that there are no general rules without exceptions.

To the Editors of the National Intelligencer:

GENTLEMEN: I enclose a communication which appeared in the [New York] Evening Star of April 28, and request that you will publish it in your widely extended and valuable paper; and I hope the editor of the A. & N. Chronicle will do the same. It was that paper in which the report of the Board of Examiners was published, and which the editor thought was *very proper and becoming*.

Whatever may be the opinion of the Board of Examiners, it is a fact that can be proven, that there are no better duty officers in the grade of lieutenant than those who are married; and in a pecuniary point of view are, with few exceptions, better off than single officers. The writer of this has known several lieutenants who were married when in embarrassed circumstances, but in the course of a few years got out of debt, and ever afterwards lived in the most respectable manner. With proper economy a married lieutenant can live well on his pay and save money. If the writer is not mistaken, the present commanding general married very early in life, and that on his pay of a subaltern at that time, which was less than the pay of the same grade at present. He lived respectably; he has reared a large family, and has always entertained his brother officers in the most hospitable and generous manner.

I do not advocate the admission of old men, either married or single; but I do not think there should be any objection to the appointment of a young man because he has a wife.

I subscribe myself A MARRIED OFFICER, with several children, who has lived comfortably and saved money on moderate pay, which at some period of his service has not exceeded fifty-eight dollars per month.

[We take upon ourselves to say that the writer of the foregoing communication would confer a lasting obligation upon his brother officers if he would impart his method of living comfortably and saving money on a subaltern's pay.—*Editor.*]

CURIOUS REFORM IN THE ARMY.—In the regulations of the War Department "respecting the appointment in the army of persons from civil life," it is expressly stated that "*no candidate will be examined who is married!*" which, we learn, has been adopted upon the recommendation of the Board of Examiners. The report of the board of officers to examine candidates for admission, sets forth that the pay of a second lieutenant, being only \$730 per annum, is barely adequate to support the appearance of an officer and a gentleman; that a wife and children are incumbrances; that the officer cannot mess with his associates, but must live with his wife, in quarters consisting only of one small room and a kitchen; that a young officer, having most duty to perform, must, with a wife, be unhappy and in debt, get into ruinous habits, and neglect his family or his profession; that the army is not a desirable place for married second lieutenants—he must be, as a married man, either "a gloomy misanthrope, or a dissipated incumbrance" (!); that he will be continually press-

ing for promotion, to which he may not be entitled; that his life will be full of humiliation, distress of mind, embarrassments, inconveniences, and sufferings; and therefore no married man can be admitted in the army as a second-lieutenant. The Army and Navy Chronicle says the regulation is published because complaints have been made of this movement, which the editor thinks is very proper and becoming. For this regulation there is not the least warrant or authority, either in the constitution or the laws: it is made in violation of both, for it excludes or disfranchises citizens from military appointments, not from civil disability, criminal pursuits, notoriously bad character, imbecility of mind, or other unanswerable objections, but from the mere fact that he has the incumbrance of a wife, and only \$780 pay to support her and family—objections which have no warrant either in law, common sense, or common justice. When was marriage made an objection, in any country on earth boasting of freedom, to admission into the public service? A young officer may have means to maintain his wife besides his pay; he may have friends or parents to leave her with when absent on the service of his country; but if he has neither—if he has only his pay to support her, surely he is not worse off than the common soldier, with his \$100 per annum, many of whom are allowed to have their wives in camp with them. He cannot live like a gentleman, and mess with his companions, says the report, if he has a wife, and therefore he must be gloomy and discontented, distracted and embarrassed. Preposterous and ridiculous. He cannot, it is true, sit until midnight at the mess-board, guzzling wine and singing bacchanalian songs, and smoking regalia segars at thirty dollars a thousand; but he can eat his meal in his quarters, with his wife, in comfort and in happiness, and make a penny produce its worth; he can read to her while she plies her needle, makes his shirts, and mends his clothes; with her he can study all that in his profession is required to constitute the officer and the gentleman. Her patriotism, as a free-born woman, animates him to glory; if he is wounded, she binds up his wounds, and soothes him to recovery; if he falls, she closes his eyes, and consigns him, with tears, to his mother earth, and feels that he died a noble death, in the cause of his country, and is consoled in her affliction. Most of our young officers are sent on the frontiers, in young settlements, in distant forts and barracks. Having a wife to support, and for mutual support and protection, he may be saved from the wine cup, from ruin by cards, from dissipated company, from confirmed bad habits. Instead, therefore, of being an inconvenience, his wife is his protection and support.

If it is found necessary to guard against such inconveniences, it should be left to discreet officers in command, to regulate such things—not be made subject to illegal, unconstitutional orders, calculated to bring the service into disrepute.—*New York Star.*

"VIVE LA BAGATELLE."—A story loses nothing as it travels. The Secretary of War may consider his popularity at an end with the fair sex; he has "set his face against matrimony in the army;" he has forbidden the bans; and his fate is sealed. Should he make a *grand tour*, he will meet nothing but scornful looks and withering glances from hundreds of bright eyes, those "windows of the soul," whose owners had flattered themselves with the hope of captivating a gallant soldier, and bearing the happy title of "a soldier's bride;" willing to accompany her liege lord to the world's end, and in the course of time to "make his shirts and mend his clothes," (see the *New York Star*.) But now, oh, sad reverse! those dreams of future bliss have vanished. The Secretary

of War has forbidden matrimony. By the time the story gets back from Europe, we shall have it that the Secretary intends to divorce those already married. 'Oh, the odious wretch!' we think we hear some village belle exclaim; 'he must be a crusty, sour-visaged old bachelor.'

But see what a terrible story they have made out of the regulation, only on our very borders, in Canada. The Secretary may console himself if he can, in the language of Hudibras:

Ah, me! what dangers do environ
The man that meddles with cold iron.

From the Montreal Courier.

The United States Secretary of War has set his face against matrimony in the army. He directs that married officers shall not be appointed to responsible posts or duties. He says the pay of an officer is barely sufficient to support himself, let alone a caravan of wife and children. We think he is right. A married man cannot be a prime, bang up soldier, courting danger as a youth of twenty-one courts the arms of her he denominates "*tesoro del mio cor*." No—a bachelor is the fellow for that sort of work. Military fame to him is like the Mahometan vision of "bright eyed girls of paradise, waving their kerchiefs, their kerchiefs of green, to the Moslem warrior, and crying, 'Come kiss me, for I love thee!'" How can a man, habituated to the platitudes of married life, with a wife at home, surrounded by a score of *pledges*—how can he gaze on the serried column of the foe, and rush at the *chevaux-de-frise* of bayonets with the cheer of recklessness, the *hourra* of desperation, or the *whoop* of headlong valor? No, no—the bachelor is the lad for that. What's death to him? None to care for him, he caring for no one, he is the gay gallant for "forlorn hopes"—not your sniveling, domestic Benedick! There is only one other sort of man, better than the bachelor, for such work, and that is he who has a red-haired termagant as a help-mate—one who treats him to curtain lectures and catpaws, instead of *les tendresses, et paroles de velour de l'amour*. He, we think, would plunge into the *crater* of a volcano to get shut of the "critter."

Upon the whole, we think the United States Secretary at War is quite right.

The general court martial which assembled at St. Augustine on the 27th ult., for the trial of Capt. M. S. HOWE, of the 2d dragoons, we understand, has adjourned without proceeding to the trial. Capt. HOWE offered the plea that he was already under the cognizance of the civil authorities for the same offence, (in substance, causing a soldier to be whipped, after which he died,) and that to try him by two tribunals would be a violation of the constitution of the U. S. which declares that no person shall "be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb."

The court entertained the plea and then adjourned.

According to the New York papers a court martial is now sitting at the navy yard, Brooklyn, for the trial of Lieut. FITZ ALLEN DEAS. The charges are not stated. Lieut. D. was attached to the ship Decatur, in which Commodore RIDGELY sailed for the coast of Brazil, but was left behind under arrest upon charges preferred by the commodore.

The court is composed of Commodore James Renshaw, President; Captains J. Gallagher, M. C. Perry,

and J. T. Newton; Commanders S. H. Stringham, J. M. McIntosh, J. Tattali, and W. J. McCluney, Members. John McKeon, Esq., Judge Advocate.

ARRIVALS AT WASHINGTON.

May 1—Lieut. T. J. Manning, Navy,	Gadsby's.
7—Capt. W. Hoffman, 6th Infy.,	Fuller's.
8—Major M. P. Lomax, Ordnance, Mrs. Turner's.	
Lieut. J. McKinstry, 2d Infy.,	Fuller's.
9—Capt. W. Day, 1st Infy.,	do
Surgeon P. Maxwell, army,	do
Lieut. J. P. J. O'Brien, 4th Arty.,	do
Capt. John Sanders, Eng'r Corps,	do
11—Capt. W. G. Williams, Top. Eng'rs,	do
Lt. Col. J. Garland, 4th Infy.,	do
Lt. F. O. Wyse, 3d Arty.,	do

LETTERS ADVERTISED.

TALLAHASSEE, May 1, 1840.

ARMY.—Capt Abercrombie, Adj't 1st Inf'y, [Dr] S R Arnold, Lt L A Armistead, Capt E D Bullock, 3, Capt. Jacob Brown, Lt J B Boyd 2, Capt B L Beall, Dr H E Cruttenden, Col W Davenport, Lt L C Easton, Lt R S Granger, Lt J H Hill, 3, Lt J H King, 3, Lt R B Lawton, Major A E Mackay, Lt H W Merrill, 2, Dr C McCormick, Lt S E Muse, 2, Lt Osgood, Lt O P Ranson, Lt T W Sheiman, Lt S B Thornton, 2, Lt C E Woodruff.

PASSENGERS.

NEW YORK, May 4, per ship Wellington, from London, Lt. John Weems, of the Navy. May 8, per ship Whitmore, from Savannah, Lt. J. M. Clendenin, of the army, lady and sister.

CHARLESTON, May 3, per steampacket North Carolina, from Wilmington, Lieuts. J. C. Terrett and R. J. Powell, of the army. May 5, per steampacket Wm. Seabrook, from Savannah, Captains W. Day and T. Morris, Dr P. Maxwell, Lieuts. H. W. Benham, J. McKinstry and J. Monroe, all of the army. May 8, per steampacket Southerner, from Savannah, Col. J. Garland and Lt. F. S. Mumford, of the army.

SAVANNAH, May 4, per steampacket Gen. Clinch, from Black creek, Dr. P. Maxwell, Capt. T. Morris, lady and child, Capt. W. Day, Lieuts. J. McKinstry and J. Monroe, of the army. May 5, per steampacket Southerner, from Charleston, Capt. T. Paine, of the navy. Per steamboat J. Stone, from Darien, E. G. Parrott, of the navy. May 6, per steamboat Florida, from Black creek, Col. J. Garland and Lieut. F. S. Mumford, of the army.

Proceedings of Congress, IN RELATION TO THE ARMY, NAVY, &c.

IN SENATE.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1840.

The CHAIR submitted a communication from the Secretary of War, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate in relation to the payment of the debts and the removal of the Winnebago Indians; which was ordered to be printed, and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. NORVELL submitted the following resolution, which was considered and agreed to:

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be directed to communicate to the Senate such information as may be in possession of the Department on the subject of the application of a mineral solution to the preservation of timber, called "Kyanising," in the report of the bureau of the Topographical Engineers, with the effect, mode of application, and cost of timber so prepared, particularly in reference to the construction of piers, jetties, and other similar works, as well as for naval structure.

MONDAY, MARCH 23.

Mr. CLAYTON presented a memorial of citizens of the State of Delaware, praying that this Government may unite with other Governments in causing a survey of the isthmus of Darien, to ascertain the practicability of cutting a canal across said isthmus, and if found to be so, then to unite with said nations in carrying the pro-

ject into effect; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25.

The CHAIR submitted a communication from the War Department, transmitting a report from the Topographical bureau on a survey of certain lakes and rivers in Wisconsin; which was laid on the table.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27.

The CHAIR communicated a report from the Secretary of the Navy, made in compliance with a resolution of the Senate, in relation to the rank of Charles Wilkes, jr. and William L. Hudson; which was read, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MERRICK presented the memorial of E. S. Gardner, agent for persons who have claims against the Government for supplies furnished to the army in Florida; which was referred to the Committee on Claims.

MONDAY, MARCH 30.

Mr. BENTON presented the memorial of Mrs. Thompson, widow of Lieut. Colonel Thompson, praying remuneration for sums expended by him; which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. BUCHANAN presented a memorial of a number of citizens of Pennsylvania, praying that bounty lands may be granted to the commissioned officers of the last war with Great Britain; which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31.

Mr. WRIGHT presented the memorial of certain relatives of Gen. Nicholas Herkimer, who died of wounds received at the battle of Oriskany, in the revolutionary war, praying Congress to renew an appropriation of \$500 made by a resolution of the old Congress in Oct., 1777, to erect a monument to Gen. Herkimer; which was referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Claims.

Mr. W. also presented the memorial of Thos. Goin, praying remuneration for expense and trouble incurred in establishing the naval school system; which was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Mr. LINN, from the Select Committee on the Oregon Territory, to which was referred the resolution of the 18th December last, reported a substitute therefor; which was read, and ordered to be printed.

The substitute asserts the title of the U. S.; authorizes the President to take such measures as may be necessary to protect the persons and property of citizens of the U. S. resident thereon, and to erect a line of military posts from Fort Leavenworth to the Rocky mountains for the protection of Indian traders; provides that when the boundaries are settled, one thousand acres of land shall be granted to each white male inhabitant of eighteen years of age; and for the appointment of an additional Indian agent.

ADJOURNMENT OF CONGRESS.

The resolution submitted some time since by Mr. LUMPKIN, fixing the adjournment of Congress on the 18th of May, being taken up,

Mr. LUMPKIN hoped that a vote might be taken on the resolution. His own opinion on the subject was unchanged, and he believed, as he had formerly taken occasion to say, that the business of the country would be greatly accelerated if a definite day was fixed for the adjournment. He was aware that a majority of the Senate differed with him as to the time mentioned; but if it was too early, the resolution might be amended so as to fix it at a more remote day; but he hoped that some day would be designated.

Mr. NORVELL thought that Congress could not with propriety fix a day for adjournment until intelligence was received of the action of the British Government on the propositions submitted to her in relation to the boundary question. With a view, however, of disposing of this matter for the present, he would move that the resolution, with the bill, introduced by him some days since, fixing the day of meeting for the next session, be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

No one appearing to object, the question was about being put, when

Mr. MORTON observed that he considered it a very singular direction to give this resolution, and he was very much surprised that his friend from Georgia [Mr.

LUMPKIN] should acquiesce in it, as he considered it equivalent to a rejection of the resolution.

Mr. LUMPKIN said he was compelled to yield to what he could not avoid. His friend from Louisiana and himself had the same opinion on this subject, but the majority of the Senate thought differently, and they had the power to give any direction to the resolution they thought proper. He had endeavored repeatedly to get a direct vote on his proposition, and had even asked it as a personal favor: but it was not thought proper to grant his request, and he bowed to the will of the majority. He therefore hoped his friend from Louisiana would perceive that there was no ground for being surprised in the fact of his yielding when he could not help it.

Mr. BUCHANAN said he agreed with the Senator from Georgia on this subject, and had voted with him throughout. His legislative experience, which was not short, had taught him that seldom was there a determined purpose evinced to transact the business of Congress until a day was fixed for the close of the session. As to this question of the Northeastern boundary, the British Government last July (he spoke from recollection) submitted a proposition to this Government for its settlement. This not proving satisfactory, our Government submitted to the British Government a counter *projet*, to which, as yet, no answer has been received. He was very glad to learn from the communication of the British Minister, which was read in this body on Thursday last, though he did not like the temper displayed in that quarter, that an answer might be shortly expected. When the expected answer to our counter *projet* is received, we will see day light on this question. We will then be informed whether the British Government accedes to the proposition, and is disposed to settle it amicably, or whether she refuses, and in that event we will know what we have to do. He was not willing to vote for fixing the 18th of May as the day of adjournment, but he thought that in all human probability the reply of the British Government would be received before the first of June. Should that answer be unpropitious, which Heaven forbid, we can postpone it until such measures can be passed as we may deem necessary for the protection of the country.

Mr. LUMPKIN having acceded to the modification of his resolution, as suggested by Mr. BUCHANAN,

Mr. ALLEN said he would vote against the resolution under consideration, or any other proposing to fix a day for the adjournment of Congress, in the present state of our foreign relations. He would consider a vote fixing a day of adjournment, at the present moment, when we are in expectation of the receipt of important intelligence from Great Britain, as equivalent to a declaration that we deemed the anticipated answer of the British Government as of no moment, whereas that answer might involve us in the most serious difficulties with that power.

Mr. BENTON said he was opposed to acting on this question of adjournment at the present time. He was one of those who anxiously desired peace—peace with all nations; but he was also of opinion, that to preserve peace we should show to the world that we were prepared to defend ourselves. And he was also of opinion that the manner in which we had squandered the public money among the several States, had encouraged a foreign nation to push us to a point. Our immense frontier, embracing an extent of not less than six thousand miles, as is generally known, is in as defenceless a condition as could be wished by an enemy. It was even, in some respects, in a worse situation than at the commencement of the last war with Great Britain. To be sure, we had some fortifications; but many of them were without armaments, and defenceless, and could be taken possession of by an enemy, and made a means of annoyance to us, instead of defence. They would be turned against us, instead of being useful against our enemies. The Senate some days since passed a resolution which was offered by the Senator from Michigan, [Mr. NORVELL,] calling on the Secretary of War for such information as he possessed relative to warlike preparations by a neighboring nation on the northern and northeastern frontier. The reply to that resolution has not yet been received, but every Senator is aware that ex-

tensive preparations are going on along the whole line of our northern frontier—from Lake Superior to Passamaquoddy bay. That along this whole line, the British Government are not only constructing permanent fortifications, which every nation has an unquestioned right to do, but that she is also constructing field works, which imply approaching operations, and which, under the laws of nations, we had a right to demand what occasion they were intended for. But we need not confine our observation to our northern frontier for signs of warlike preparation, but we may look to the mouth of the Columbia, that important portion of our territory which my friend and colleague [Mr. LINN] so appropriately and perseveringly endeavors to turn our attention to. Not only to the mouth of that important river, but to the Bermudas, may our attention be turned to the warlike preparations that are being made. We can also point to the Bahamas—to the greatly increased facility of communication between Great Britain and Halifax—to the concentration of troops in provinces bordering on our frontier; all exhibited evidences of preparing for a state of hostilities.

Mr. President, it is time that we cease plundering our country, and begin to defend it. The miserable business of dividing surplus revenue and land revenue, should be scouted from our councils. The armor of defence is what the nation should wear. If we wish to preserve peace, we must show a will to resist aggression. The nation which refuses to defend itself invites aggression. The dark clouds are gathering around us. We see them far above the horizon, North, South, East and West. Great Britain prepares at all points; we remain supine; Congress remains supine. All the admonitions of the late and present Administrations to prepare in peace for war, have been disregarded; and now we are taunted with our defenceless state. At the last session of Congress, resolutions requiring the heads of the War and Navy Departments to submit plans for the general and permanent defence of the country, were sent from this chamber. One of these Departments has answered this resolution; the other is preparing it. When they come in, we shall see what the general and permanent defence of the country requires; we shall have a general plan to discuss. In the meantime, impending events may require accelerated action: and he was not for adjourning, or even discussing the question of adjournment, until these events were further developed. While the question with England wore its present aspect, he deemed it neither wise nor politic to discuss an adjournment. It would look like saying we would do nothing to defend ourselves, and thereby would encourage and embolden the power whose preparations now menace us. It would operate as an encouragement to Great Britain to continue to push us—to continue to press and bear upon us; and from that pressure, collision and explosion might ensue. He was for deferring the question of adjournment until the public business was attended to, and especially until the question with England changed its aspect.

Mr. TAPPAN moved that the resolution be laid upon the table, but withdrew it at the request of

Mr. NORVELL, who wished to be informed by the chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, whether it was the intention of the committee to report, at a day not very remote, a bill for the defence of the country.

Mr. BENTON said an answer to this question was intended in his previous remarks. The committee had delayed their action, until a report from one of the Departments, which was expected at an early day, should be received.

After some remarks from Mr. PRENTISS in favor of the resolution:

Mr. LINN said, as his constituents had a right to know his reasons for voting against this resolution, he would briefly state them. If he was asked, will Congress be ready to adjourn on the 1st of June, he would answer in the negative.

Mr. L. then adverted to the amount of private business before them, and said that, independent of any extraneous matters, and leaving entirely out of view the threatening aspect of our foreign relations adverted to by his colleague [Mr. BENTON,] it was not probable they would be ready for adjournment at the time des-

ignated. Let us, said Mr. L., industriously set about doing the business before us, and when we see our way through it, let us then fix a day for adjournment.

Mr. TALLMADGE spoke at some length in opposition to the resolution. It was fixing a day much earlier than usual, when, owing to peculiar circumstances in the other branch of Congress, the public business was several weeks behind its usual state of forwardness at this period of the session. He was for remaining here until the public business was perfected, or otherwise all the time spent in maturing it would go for nothing. He alluded to the necessity of passing a bankrupt law, which had been so loudly called for by the community, and on which there was such a perfect unanimity of sentiment. He was willing to remain here until all the business that was before them was perfected and disposed of, and he considered that to be the true economy.

The question was then taken on laying the resolution on the table, and decided in the affirmative—ayes 23, noes 17.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3.

Mr. TALLMADGE submitted the following resolution for consideration:

Resolved, That the President be requested to cause to be laid before the Senate, as early as practicable, the whole of the proceedings of a court martial recently assembled at Charlestown, Massachusetts, for the trial of 2d Lieut. Louis F. Whitney, of the Marine Corps; the charges and specifications against him; as well as all correspondence had in relation thereto, between the Secretary of the Navy, or any one else by his directions, and all other persons whomsoever; also, that he be requested to communicate whether a certain letter, signed "G. W. Davis," containing allegations against Lieut. Whitney, received by the Secretary of the Navy in December last, did not on the trial prove to be fictitious; as well, also, whether any steps have been taken for the purpose of discovering the writer or author of the said letter.

A motion being made that the Senate adjourn until Monday next,

Mr. BENTON hoped it would be withdrawn, as the Committee on Military Affairs were anxious that the bill providing for an increase of the military force in the suffering Territory of Florida should be taken up, and he proposed that the bill should be taken up tomorrow.

The motion to adjourn until Monday was sustained, and the Senate adjourned until Monday next.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1840.

Mr. KEMBLE, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported the following bill:

A BILL

Respecting enlistments in the army and navy.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That when any person applies to enlist in the army or navy of the United States, he shall, if required, before enlistment, deposit with the recruiting officer, a written statement, verified by his affidavit made before some civil officer authorized by law to administer oaths, setting forth that said applicant is twenty-one years of age, or if said applicant is less than twenty-one, then said statement shall set forth that he is full eighteen years of age, is not an indentured apprentice, and has neither parent nor guardian living; which affidavit shall be duly subscribed by himself, and attested by the officer before whom it was made.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person under the age of twenty-one, after being sworn and enlisted as aforesaid, shall afterward, on the application of himself or any other person, be discharged from service by the civil authority, upon the ground of its being made satisfactorily to appear that such person had, at the date of his enlistment, a parent or guardian living, or was an indentured apprentice, or under the age of eighteen, at the date of said enlistment, the person so enlisted and discharged shall, if he have knowingly and falsely sworn to the written statement in the first sec-

tion of this act mentioned, be taken and held to be guilty of the crime of perjury, for which he shall be subjected to indictment and trial before the circuit or district court of the U. S., of the district wherein he committed said offence, or the circuit or district court of the district in which he was discharged as aforesaid; and on the trial the said written statement sworn to and subscribed by him and attested as aforesaid shall be admitted and received by the court and jury as prima facie evidence that the accused did make such written statements and swear to the truth thereof, and that the civil officer by whom said affidavit purported to be attested, did really attest the same, and was duly authorized to administer said oath; and should the accused be found guilty of such perjury, he shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a period not to exceed five years, nor for a less term than the unexpired portion of his enlistment at the date of the application for his discharge.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person shall procure the enlistment of a minor by representing himself or herself as the parent or guardian of said minor, and as such assenting to his enlistment in the army or navy of the U. S., when, in truth, such person did not stand in the relation of parent or guardian to said minor, every person knowingly and wilfully making such false representation shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof before the circuit court of the U. S., shall be fined in a sum not to exceed \$500, or imprisoned for a period not greater than three years, at the discretion of the court.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That when an application shall be made to the civil authority by writ of habeas corpus or otherwise, to discharge any soldier, sailor, or non-commissioned officer of the army or navy of the U. S., upon the ground that such soldier, sailor, or non-commissioned officer at the date of his enlistment was a minor, an indentured apprentice, or under the age of eighteen years, or had a parent or guardian living whose assent was not given to the enlistment, it shall not be lawful for the civil authority taking cognizance of such application, to discharge such soldier, sailor, or non-commissioned officer from service until a reasonable time has been afforded for obtaining and producing before said civil authority the said original written statement and affidavit, if it shall be alleged on oath that there is good cause to believe the same exists and can be procured.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That no boy shall be entered or admitted into the naval service as an apprentice, as authorized by the act of Congress approved second March, 1837, unless the person presenting him for admission shall first deposit with the recruiting officer his or her affidavit, made before a justice of the peace, or other person duly authorized and empowered to administer oaths, setting forth that he or she is the parent or lawful guardian of said boy, and has full right and authority to apprentice him to the navy of the U. S. until he shall attain the age of twenty-one years, and that, at the time of presenting him for admission into the navy as an apprentice, he, the said boy, is not over the age of sixteen years.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That if any boy, so entered or admitted as an apprentice to the navy, shall afterward, upon his own application, or that of any other person, be discharged from the naval service by process of law on the ground of its having been made satisfactorily to appear that such apprentice was, at the time of his being so entered or admitted into it, over the age of sixteen years, or that the person, upon whose application and affidavit as aforesaid he was so entered or admitted an apprentice, was not in fact the parent or guardian of such boy, or had not lawful right or authority to apprentice him to the navy, or that said boy was, at the time he was entered or admitted into the service as apprentice, over the age of sixteen years, the person so falsely representing himself or herself to be the parent or guardian of such boy, and that his age when so apprenticed did not exceed sixteen years, shall be deemed and taken to be guilty of wilful and corrupt perjury, and be liable to indictment and trial therefor before the circuit or district court of the U. S. for the district where the said offence was committed, or in which the offender may be apprehended.

Domestic Intelligence.

FLORIDA WAR.

ST. AUGUSTINE, May 1.—Capt. Holmes, at some place west of St. Johns river struck a trail, and after following it up some distance, and not finding the Indians, suspected the Indians might be following him; he accordingly laid four men in ambush, and proceeded on with the rest of his company; shortly afterward, two Indians came up, and were fired on by the men in concealment—killed one and so badly wounded the other that he was taken.

We did not learn the date of the occurrence, though it happened very recently.—*Herald*.

Extract of a letter to the Editor, dated

FORT LAUDERDALE, E. F., April 24.—A most provoking and most unexpected incident occurred about half a mile from this post to day.

The water in New river becoming rather brackish at times, opposite the post, it has become necessary to ascend the river a short distance in order to procure fresh. Whilst a party of 5 men were performing this duty, in a small boat, they were fired upon by some Indians, who were concealed in a mangrove scrub, the marshy and usually inundated nature of which, has always induced the belief that no human being would even undertake to enter it. Three of the men were wounded, the other two escaping unhurt. Sergt. Holten, the man whose exemplary bearing as a soldier, has always enlisted the most exalted approbation of all under whom he ever served, is thought to be mortally wounded, two balls having penetrated his body near the liver. The Indians were not seen by any of the soldiers, but, from the number of balls which took effect, there must have been at least half a dozen.

A party of fifteen or twenty men, under Capt. Davidson, who commands this post, resorted with the utmost promptness to the scrub in which they were concealed, but were unable, with all the unbonded zeal which such a deed could inspire, to overtake the sly and murderous rascals, they having yelled and retreated so soon as their bloody design was accomplished.—*Ibid*.

TALLAHASSEE, May 2.—The report of the murder of another family by the Indians, mentioned last week, is confirmed. The Indians, about fifteen in number, appeared on the premises of Mr. McLean on the To-logee, early in the morning, and were discovered by one of the daughters, who ran to the house and gave information to the family. Mrs. M. took her children, three in number, and made for the hammock, when they were overtaken and inhumanly butchered by the Indians. Mrs. M's throat was cut, and her children beaten to death with pine-knots. The Indians returned to the house, where Mr. M's son, about 16 years of age, had determined to defend himself, and fired frequently at the Indians. They then attempted to fire the house, by means of arrows wrapped with blazing cotton. Failing in these efforts, one approached with a torch, but he was shot down by the lad, and has since been found dead. They set fire to several out-houses, and went off. Mr. M. was absent at the time, but returned towards evening, to witness the inhuman sacrifice of his family.

Information was given to the troops in that quarter, as soon as possible, who went in pursuit; and after following the trail for a day or two, returned without finding the Indians. The greatest vigilance is necessary to prevent these frequent depredations; and although several companies of troops are continually scouting in that quarter, the Indians seem able to elude all pursuit. We know not how or when these depredations are to be ended.—*Floridian*.

A letter published in the Savannah Republican, of the 5th, dated Florida, May 1, says:

"On the 30th ult, some men (while on parade) of

2d dragoons, station at Pilatka, mutinied and attempted the life of Lieut. Merrill, who was in command. Lieut. M. cut one of the ringleaders severely in the face, and by the aid of Dr. Hitchcock, kept them at bay for a short time; but, there is no doubt, had not Capt. Lawton's company arrived just at that moment, they would have taken the lives of both officers. Lawton's company arrived in the Cincinnati, to go in the interior. Major Ashby, the commanding officer was at St. Augustine."

From the Pensacola Gazette, April 18.

Major Chase informs us that the new castle on Foster's Bank, at the entrance of our harbor, has been named by the War Department "Fort McRee," in compliment to the late Col. William McRee, of the Engineers, an officer highly distinguished for skill in his profession and bravery in the field.

Fort McRee, in conjunction with Fort Pickens on St. Rosa Island, and the old fort San Carlos de Barancas, now undergoing improvement and repair, will effectually guard the channel approach to the harbor.

Fort Pickens will mount - - 250 guns

Fort McRee do do - - 140

Fort San Carlos do - - 41

- 431 guns.

TRIBUTE.—The citizens of St. Augustine, in testimony of their admiration of the meritorious services of Lt. W. K. HANSON, of the U. S. Army, at Fort Mellon, August 3, 1839, resolved on tendering him a sword, in token of their approbation of his conduct at that post. The sword arrived here on Saturday last, and was immediately forwarded to that officer now in command of a military post in the interior. It is plain and unostentatious in its appearance, and beautiful in its very simplicity. The hilt, of solid silver, richly gilt, is in the shape of a cross, with a gradual swell of its grip; and its ear, bearing the appropriate devices of the knife, the bow, and the tomahawk. The scabbard of a similar material, surmounted by a star, and its end embossed with leaves and acorns. The blade bears on its side "The Citizens of St. Augustine to Lt. W. K. HANSON, U. S. A."—and on the reverse, "For Meritorious Services at Fort Mellon, August 3, 1839."—*St. Augustine News, April 24.*

THE ARABIAN SHIP SULTANEE.—A committee of five from each Board of Common Council has been appointed to receive Ahamet Ben Aman, captain of said ship and representative of the Sultan of Muscat, and extend to him the hospitalities of the city. This is done partly in consideration of the very friendly demeanor of the said Sultan towards our country and commerce, and partly because the Sultanee is the first of his nation which ever visited our shores. On one occasion, a few years ago, when an American sloop of war (the Peacock, if we recollect right,) got aground on his coast in a dangerous position, he immediately sent assistance, by which she was got off without material damage.—*New York Journal of Commerce.*

IMPORTANT.—We learn from correct sources that the U. S. troops, heretofore understood to have been ordered to Houlton, are in fact ordered to the Disputed Territory, a portion of them to the station on Fish River, and the remainder to Fort Fairfield.

This movement is just to Maine, and precisely the proper answer to the British threat of "consequences" to result from the existing attitude of this State. We have no time for further comment.—*Augusta, Me. Age, April 20.*

We understand that JOHN G. TOD, Esq., Navy Agent from the Republic of Texas to the United States, having accomplished all the objects contemplated in his mission, returns immediately to his Government.

The most important duties which devolved upon

Mr. TOD required his presence at our ship yards and wharves, where his friends usually found him, giving his personal and undivided attention to the objects under his charge. Such a strict superintendence is a sufficient guarantee that nothing failed which zeal and intelligence could accomplish.

While Mr. TOD carries with him the warmest and best wishes of a large number of friends in every part of the United States, there are none who will feel more pleasure in hearing that this known zeal for the best interests of his country, has been rewarded in a manner commensurate with the merits of so faithful and upright a public servant, than those of this city, many of whom have known him well and long—many who knew him when he occupied an honorable place in our own Navy.—*Baltimore American.*

From the Philadelphia Gazette.

U. S. SHIP LEXINGTON, }

Callao Roads, Dec. 15, 1839. }

"We, the subscribers, seamen and marines on board the U. S. ship Lexington, Captain JOHN H. CLACK, do agree to give, in order to purchase a Sword and Epaulette, (the following sums affixed to our names,) to be presented to Lieut. JOHN P. GILLIS, for his gentlemanly and officer-like conduct towards us.

Amount subscribed, \$302 50.

U. S. SHIP LEXINGTON, }

Callao, Dec. 17, 1839. }

SIR:—The crew of this ship having through you offered me a Sword and Epaulette, under the impression I was about to leave them, be pleased to inform them that I respectfully decline accepting the same, being altogether opposed to such presentations, convinced that they are not in conformity with the true spirit of our service.

It is gratifying, however, to know that my conduct on board has met with approbation; as in the discharge of my official duties, I always endeavor to do justice to the service, and in so doing, to the crew also.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant.

JOHN P. GILLIS, Lieut.

To Capt. JOHN H. CLACK, U. S. S. Lexington.

CONVICTIONS FOR VIOLATION OF THE NEUTRALITY LAWS.—Rensselaer Van Rensselaer was sentenced to six months imprisonment, and fined \$250, to stand imprisoned until the fine be paid. It having been satisfactorily shown that he is wholly unable to pay the fine, the President has remitted the same.

William Lyon Mackenzie was sentenced to eighteen months imprisonment, from the 20th of June last, and \$10 fine. The residue of his punishment has, we understand, also been remitted by the President.—*Albany Argus, May 9.*

On Wednesday the 7th inst., Gov. GILMER, of Virginia, visited the frigate Potomac, Capt. Kearny, and was received by a salute. After inspecting the ship which is ready for sea and about to sail for the Brazil station, he was attended by Captain Kearny to the ship of the line Delaware, Capt. Skinner, where he was received under a salute of 17 guns. A friend who was present, describes the reception of the Gov. and suite on board the majestic Delaware as highly imposing—the thunder of cannon greeting him as he appeared, the yards all manned, the captain and officers in the full and splendid dress of the naval service, the marine guard with presented arms, and music playing the while. One of the gentlemen who accompanied the Governor speaks of the appearance of the quarter deck of the Delaware in eloquent terms. The day was fine, and as the light of the sun was thrown back by the polished arms, embroidered uniforms, and the snow white decks, the scene on the capacious quarter deck of the Delaware was brilliant indeed. The Governor, accompanied by Captain Skinner and officers, then visited the various decks,

store rooms, &c., but especially the school for apprentices, who were drawn up in line, and specimens of whose writing were exhibited to him. Three of the lads who had distinguished themselves were called and presented to his notice. The Governor expressed himself more satisfied with such an exhibition than any other that he had observed. And well might such a scene excite his feelings, as the system of naval apprenticeship is unquestionably one of the great moral movements of the age.

After a review of the ship and after refreshments were tendered, the Governor took his departure, the same nautical ceremonies being observed as marked his entrance. On leaving the ship, while the boat in which he was lay off on her oars during the salute, he had a full view of the men and boys on the yards, all of whom, we are informed, were landsmen and the boys now drilling on board. The apprentices on the top-gallant yards looked like so many monkeys in sailor's garb, and created much mirth in the party.

From the Delaware Governor Gilmer and suite were accompanied by Capt. Skinner and other officers of that ship to the navy yard, where they were received by Commander Page, in the absence of the gallant Warrington now one of the Court Martial sitting in Philadelphia. Every attention was shown to the Governor by Commander Page, and the immense dock, the ships in the stream, among which was the gigantic Pennsylvania, and the various departments of that extensive establishment were seen to great advantage. From the navy yard he returned to Norfolk in the gig of Capt. Skinner, accompanied by that officer, and expressing himself much pleased with a visit that never fails to rouse the patriotism of every lover of the Union.—*Norfolk Beacon, May 11.*

Military Intelligence.

Adjutants of regiments will confer an especial favor by communicating early information of changes that occur. We find nothing more acceptable to our military readers than these notices, which though not official may be considered as authentic, as we publish none that cannot be relied on.

Quartermaster's Department.—The Assistant Quartermaster's Office, at Charleston, S. C., is moved to a room in the Victoria House, No. 189 King street.

3d Artillery.—Lieut. Wyse has left Florida on sick leave.

1st Infantry.—Capt. Abercrombie, detailed for general recruiting service.

2d Infantry.—Capt. Morris and Lieut. Clendenin, detailed for general recruiting service. Major Loomis has left Florida on furlough.

4th Infantry.—Lt. Col. Garland, relieved from duty in Florida, and now in Washington preparatory to joining his regiment.

6th Infantry.—Capt. G. Andrews, assigned to such duty in Florida as the state of his wounds will allow him to perform.

8th Infantry.—The whole regiment, except two skeleton companies, left Sacket's Harbor, on the 2d inst, and arrived at Buffalo on the 3d, when they embarked in the steamboats Cleveland and Buffalo on their route to Green Bay.

Naval Intelligence.

U. S. VESSELS OF WAR REPORTED.

Brig Dolphin, Lt. Comd't C. H. Bell, at Sierra Leone, March 20.

MEDITERRANEAN SQUADRON.—Ship Cyane, Comm'r Latimer, at Toulon, April 4.

BRAZIL SQUADRON.—Ship Marion, Comm'r Belt, at Buenos Ayres, March 21.

OFFICIAL NAVAL REGISTER, for 1840.—A few copies for sale at this office. Ap. 2

MARRIAGES.

By the Rev. Dr. HAWLEY, on the morning of the 12th inst., Captain FREDERICK A. SMITH, U. S. Corps of Engineers, to Miss AGNES MARIA, daughter of the late JOSEPH MECHLIN of this city.

In Baltimore, on the 1st inst., Lieut. J. STOCKTON KEITH REEVES, of the 1st reg't artillery, U. S. A., to ANNIE DORSEY, daughter of the late GEORGE READ, Esq., of Delaware.

In Philadelphia, on the 6th inst., Capt. A. N. BREVOORT, of the U. S. Marine Corps, to Mrs. ELIZA SHARPE.

In Brooklyn, N. Y., on the 30th ult., THOMAS W. CUMMING, of the U. S. Navy, to MARGARET, daughter of ROBERT BACH.

At New Haven, Conn., on the 7th inst. Lieut. JAMES T. McDONOUGH, of the U. S. navy, to LAURA, eldest daughter of the Hon. S. J. HITCHCOCK.

NAVAL AND MILITARY SCIENCE.—Just imported from London by F. TAYLOR, and this day received,

Mitchell's (Lieut. Col.) Tactics and Military Organization.

Magrath's Art of War.

Naval and Military Almanac for 1840, "made up of matter of special interest to the united service."

British Naval List for 1840.

British Army List for 1840.

Glascock's (Captain Royal Navy) Naval Service, or Officer's Manual.

Fordyce's (Lieut. Royal Navy) Naval Routine.

Wellington's Despatches, 13 vols.

McWilliam on Dry Rot.

New Tables of Logarithms, by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge.

The King's Regulations and Orders for the Army.

Lieut. Col. Humfrey's Modern Fortifications.

Nautical Surveying, by Commander Edward Belcher.

Robson's Marine Surveying.

Mackenzie's Marine Surveying.

Sir Howard Douglas on Military Bridges.

do do Naval Gunnery.

Artillerist's Manual and Compendium of Military Instruction, by Capt. Griffiths, Royal Artillery.

Gunpowder, its manufacture and proof, by John Braddock, Commissary of Ordnance.

Falconer's Marine Dictionary, 1 vol. 4to.

Charnock's Marine Architecture, 3 vols. 4to.

McPherson's Annals of Commerce, 4 vols. 4to.

British Naval Biography and History, from Howard to Codrington, 1 vol.

Simmons (Capt. Royal Artillery) on Courts Martial.

Armstrong on Steam Boilers.

Newton's Principia, 2 vols.

The Celestial Mechanics of La Place, 1 vol.

Nichol's Phenomena of the Solar System, 1 vol.

Hutton's Mathematical Tables and Logarithms.

New edition of Hutton's Mathematics, entirely remodelled for the use of the Royal Military Academy.

Sopwith's Isometrical Drawing.

Sir John Ross on Steam and Steam Navigation, in connexion with maritime warfare, 1 vol. 4to.

And many others of the same class with the above.

LIST TO BE CONTINUED.

On hand, an extensive and valuable collection of the best and latest works on Geology, Mineralogy, Conchology, Botany, &c.; on the Steam Engine, on Bridge Building, on Drawing, Astronomy, Surveying, Civil and Military Engineering, &c.; and on all other branches of the Natural, Mathematical, and Mechanical Sciences, at the lowest prices in every case.

* * * The British Nautical Almanac for 1843 daily expected.

Books, Periodicals, and Stationery imported to order from London and Paris.

F. TAYLOR, Bookseller.

April 30—1m

Immediately east of Gadshy's Hotel.

ARMY, NAVY, AND MARINE UNIFORMS.

JOHN SMITH, (late of West Point,) would respectfully inform the officers of the army and navy, that he is now enabled to furnish to the different corps their uniform complete, all made of the best materials, and forwarded with despatch.

To prevent errors, the Legislature of New York has authorized him to change his name to JOHN S. FRASER; therefore all letters hereafter will be addressed to

JOHN S. FRASER,

March 5—1f 168 Pearl street, New York

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